

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) An optical laminate (optical laminate C) which comprises a layer (layer A) comprising a resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence and at least one layer (layer B) comprising a transparent resin, having substantially no orientation and laminated at least on one face of layer A and satisfies a relation  $|Re(A)| > |Re(B)|$ , wherein  $Re(A)$  and  $Re(B)$  represent an in-plane retardation of layer A and an in-plane retardation of layer B, respectively, measured with light having a wavelength of 400 to 700 nm,

wherein the optical laminate satisfies a relation  $\Sigma nz > \Sigma ny - 0.002$ , wherein  $\Sigma nz$  represents a refractive index in a direction of a thickness and  $\Sigma ny$  and  $\Sigma nx$  represent refractive indices in two directions which are perpendicular to the direction of a thickness and perpendicular to each other of optical laminate C measured with light having a wavelength of 550 nm, and  $\Sigma nx$ ,  $\Sigma ny$  and  $\Sigma nz$  satisfy relations  $\Sigma nx < \Sigma ny$  and  $\Sigma nx < \Sigma nz$ .

2. (Original) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein  $|Re(B)|$  is 20 nm or smaller.

3. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, which satisfies a relation  $Tg(A) > Tg(B) + 20$ , wherein  $Tg(A)$  and  $Tg(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures in °C of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively.

4. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, which satisfies a relation  $Re(450) > Re(550) > Re(650)$ , wherein  $Re(450)$ ,  $Re(550)$  and  $Re(650)$  represent in-plane retardations at wavelengths of 450 nm, 550 nm and 650 nm, respectively.

**5. (Canceled)**

6. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein an unevenness in a thickness of layer A is 3.0% or smaller of an average thickness of layer A.

7. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a resin selected from a group consisting of vinyl aromatic polymers, polyacrylonitrile polymers and polymethyl methacrylate polymers.

8. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a vinyl aromatic polymer.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a resin selected from a group consisting of polystyrene and copolymers of styrene and maleic anhydride.

10. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent resin is a resin having an alicyclic structure.

11. (Previously presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent resin is a norbornene polymer.

12. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent

resin is a hydrogenation product of a ring-opening polymer of a norbornene monomer or a hydrogenation product of a ring-opening copolymer of a norbornene monomer.

13. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent resin has a tensile elongation at break of 30% or greater.

14. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the layer comprising a transparent resin and having substantially no orientation (layer B) is laminated on both faces of the layer comprising a resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence (layer A).

15. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein an adhesive layer is disposed between the layer comprising a resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence (layer A) and the layer comprising a transparent resin and having substantially no orientation (layer B).

16. (Currently Amended) The optical laminate according to Claim 15, which satisfies relations  $Tg(A) > Tg(D)$  and  $Tg(B) > Tg(D)$ , wherein  $Tg(D)$  represents a glass transition temperature or a softening point in °C of an adhesive in the adhesive layer, and wherein  $Tg(A)$  and  $Tg(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures in °C of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively.

17. (Previously Presented) An optical element comprising a laminate of the optical laminate described in Claim 1 and a polarizer plate.

18. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device which uses at least one sheet of the optical laminate described in Claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 18, wherein said liquid crystal display device comprises a liquid crystal cell of in-plane switching (IPS) mode.

20. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 12, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a copolymer of styrene with maleic anhydride.

21. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the optical laminate C is obtained by co-stretching an unstretched laminate comprising an unstretched resin layer comprising the transparent resin and having substantially no orientation and an unstretched resin layer comprising the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence, said unstretched resin layer comprising the transparent resin and having substantially no orientation being laminated on at least one face of the layer comprising the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence.

22. (Currently Amended) The optical laminate according to Claim 20 Claim 21, wherein the unstretched laminate is co-stretched at a temperature of from  $Tg(A)-10$  ( $^{\circ}$ C) to  $Tg(A)+20$  ( $^{\circ}$ C), wherein  $Tg(A)$  and  $Tg(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures in  $^{\circ}$ C of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively.

23. (Currently Amended) The optical laminate according to Claim 20 Claim 21, wherein the unstretched laminate is obtained by a molding process by coextrusion of the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence and the transparent resin), wherein  $Tg(A)$  and  $Tg(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures in  $^{\circ}$ C of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively.

24. (Previously Presented) The optical laminate according to Claim 22, wherein glass transition temperatures  $Tg(A)$  and  $Tg(B)$  in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively, satisfies a relation:  $Tg(B)+30 > Tg(A) > Tg(B)+20$ .

25. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A process for producing an optical laminate (optical laminate C) which comprises a layer (layer A) comprising a resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence and at least one layer (layer B) comprising a transparent resin, having substantially no orientation and laminated at least on one face of layer A and satisfies a relation  $|Re(A)| > |Re(B)|$ , wherein  $Re(A)$  and  $Re(B)$  represent an in-plane retardation of layer A and an in-plane retardation of layer B, respectively, measured with light having a wavelength of 400 to 700 nm,

wherein the optical laminate satisfies a relation  $\Sigma nz > \Sigma ny - 0.002$ , wherein  $\Sigma nz$  represents a refractive index in a direction of a thickness and  $\Sigma ny$  and  $\Sigma nx$  represent refractive indices in two directions which are perpendicular to the direction of a thickness and perpendicular to each other of optical laminate C measured with light having a wavelength of 550 nm, and  $\Sigma nx$ ,  $\Sigma ny$  and  $\Sigma nz$  satisfy relations  $\Sigma nx < \Sigma ny$  and  $\Sigma nx < \Sigma nz$ ,

wherein said process comprises:

laminating a layer comprising a transparent resin and having substantially no orientation on at least one face of the layer comprising the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence to form an unstretched laminate, and

costretching the formed unstretched laminate.

26. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A process according to claim 24 Claim 25, wherein the unstretched laminate is co-stretched at a temperature of from  $Tg(A)-10$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) to  $Tg(A)+20$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and wherein  $Tg(A)$  and  $Tg(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively.